undertaking export of sugar under the provisions of Sugar Export Promotion Act, 1958 had participated in the tenders floated by Trading Corporation of Pakistan a Government of Pakistan undertaking and their tenders were accepted against which a quantity of 2.33 lakh tonnes of sugar was supplied to Pakistan. Besides this, a quantity of 31,342 tonnes of sugar has also so far been supplied by M/s. Indian Sugar & General Industry Export Import Corporation Ltd., against contracts entered into by them with private traders.

Forest Land for Devosam Board in Kerala

608. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala has asked for providing adequate forest land for Davosam Board for the development of Sabarimala temple;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). The State Government of Kerala had earlier submitted a proposal under the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 115.60 hectares of forest land in district Pathanamthitta for providing amenities to pilgrims of Sabarimala Temple. The proposed forest area formed part of Periyar Tiger Reserve. While the proposal was under process, the State Government in December, 1995 forwarded another proposal involving 20 hectares of forest land for the same purpose. The proposal was examined by the Ministry and also discussed with nodal officer, State Forest Department, Kerala, in May, 1996. As per the discussion held with the Nodal Officer, certain suggestions were made for the consideration of the Kerala State Government which include preparation of a master plan for the area already in possession of Travancore Devaswam Board in the main premises of temple to replace dilapidated structures with multi-storey structures and to explore the possibility of creating parking facilities at Plappalli, Nilackal and Rajanpara areas which have already been brought under plantation to avoid clearing of pristine natural forests in presently proposed Chakkayam area. In the absence of complete details from the State Government, the question of taking a final decision on the proposal does not arise.

[Translation]

Assistance/Loan to States

609. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the amount given to each state during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 as assistance and as loan by his Ministry, scheme-wise;

(b) the names of the States which have not fully utilized the amount during the said period;

(c) the details of unutilized amount with each State; and

(d) the reasons for non-utilization of this amount?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Non-Payment of Subsidy

610. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to non-clearance and non-payment of subsidy on fertilizers to small SSP units, Sarda Fertilizers of West Bengal and other SSP units have been closed or are facing closure, thereby throwing hundreds of employees to unemployment; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the government to make payments of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). Prices of all phosphatic fertilizers including Single Super Phosphate (SSP) have been decontrolled with effect from 25.8.92. All admissible claims of subsidy in respect of SSP units including M/s Sarda Fertilizers, for the period prior to 25.8.92 have been cleared and payments made.

Under the scheme of special concession on decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, payments are made on the basis of claims certified by the State Governments. An amount of Rs.6.99 lakh has been paid to M/s Sarda Fertilizers during 1996-97 as per the certified claims received.

Wildlife Week

611. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the specific programmes and schemes launched during the wildlife week;

(b) whether any comparison of the wild life census figures especially with respect to endangered species was made and schemes launched to preserve and promble such species; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The wildlife week is observed every year starting from 2nd October to coincide with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. As in previous years, the Prime Minister's message on the eve of wildlife week, was widely circulated. The State Governments were requested to organise various wildlife awareness generation programmes involving the relevant departments, non-governmental organisations and the youth. Nature camps and group visits by school Children to nearby national parks and sanctuaries and zoological parks were organised. The mass media was utilised for spreading the message of wildlife conservation. In Delhi, the National Zoological Park Organised the main function on behalf of this Ministry, wherein various activities like painting competition, essay writing, clay and mask modelling, wildlife cartoon drawing, wildlife quiz, fancy dress competition and wildlife photography contests were organised.

(b) and (c). Census of major species of wild animals is conducted periodically by the States and not specifically during the wildlife week.

The comparative figures of the last 2 census in respect of the major endangered species is given below:

S. No.	Name of Species	Year 1989	1993
1.	Tiger	4334	3750
2.	Leopard	6763	6828
3.	Elephant	17635 Min. to 24090 Max.	22796 Min. to 28346 Max.
4.	Rhinos	1591	1566 (1995)
5.	Lion	284 (1990)	304 (1995)

Although no new schemes were launched during the wildlife week by this Ministry, all the ongoing central sector and centrally sponsored schemes for wildlife conservation were continued.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Sindri Fertilisers Plant

612 SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding the irregularities in Sindri Fertilisers Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Indian Fertilisers Workers Union has demanded a C.B.I. inquiry into the working of Sindri Fertilisers Industry; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). A number of complaints containing allegations of financial irregularities in the Sindri unit of the Fertiliser Corpn. of India Ltd. were received. These were examined to assess whether there was a prima-facie case warranting a further probe. None of the allegations could be substantiated by facts.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Attack on Elderly Citizen

613. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidents of attacks on the elederly citizens and couples in Delhi have been increasing;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). 24 cases of attacks on elderly citizens/couples have been reported in Delhi during the period from 1.11.95 to 31.10.96 as against 25 such cases reported during the corresponding period from 1.11.94 to 31.10.95. The details of such crimes are as under :

Crime Head	1.11.95 to 31.10.96		1.11.94 to 31.10.95	
	Alone	Couple	Alone	Couple
Murder	11	2	16	5
Dacoity	2	-	1	1
Robbery	6	-	1	-
Hurt (Grievous)	2	-	-	-
Culpable homicide (u/s 304 IPC)	1	-	-	-
Attempt to culpable Homicide (u/s 308 IPC)	-	-	1	-

(c) The steps taken to prevent/reduce such crime are as under :

(i) A Senior Citizens' Security Scheme is in